

16. Rajasthan	1453
17. Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	1414
18. Uttar Pradesh	1734
19. West Bengal (Including Calcutta Sikkim and Andaman Nicobar)	659
Total	21328

Increase in Wages

2917. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to increase the honorarium/wages of extra departmental employees;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). One man Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Talwar, retired Judge of Delhi High Court to examine the condition of service and emoluments and other facilities available to the Extra Departmental Agents. The Committee has not submitted its report so far. The tenure of the Justice Talwar Committee Postal Extra Departmental System has been extended for a further period from 1.10.96 to 15.2.97 or three months from the date of submission of the Report of the Vth pay Commission, whichever is later.

Catering / Vending Contracts

2918. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the policy of the Government regarding transfer/renewal of the catering/vending contract of the legal heir of the deceased contractor after completion of unexpired period; and
- (b) the detail of catering/vending contracts held by legal heirs of the deceased contractor in each zonal railways, division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per policy, in the event of death of licensee of a catering/vending unit, the licence can be transferred in the name of legal heir for the unexpired period of contract. Renewal of contract is permissible based, *inter-alia*, on satisfactory performance of the applicant.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Electrification of Railway Routes

2919. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of rail routes electrified in Assam so far; and
- (b) the details of rail routes which are proposed to be electrified in the State in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No railway route has been electrified so far in the State of Assam.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to electrify any of the railway routes falling in the State of Assam.

[Translation]

Facilities to Class III and IV Employees

2920. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third and fourth class employees of MTNL, Delhi and MTNL, Mumbai are not enjoying the same facilities as have been given to employees of same categories in other parts of the country for the last decade;

(b) whether the case of providing deputation facility to these employees is still pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in order to provide same service conditions and facilities to them as have been given to the employees of same categories in the other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. In fact MTNL employees enjoy some additional facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The case is pending in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

(d) In view of (a) above, no further steps are required to be taken.

Ring Railway Service in Delhi

2921. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the Ring Railway Service in Delhi more systematic and efficient with a view to improve environment and to reduce congestion on roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the development of Ring Railway Service in Delhi during the last three years, till date, and the achievements made in this regard;

(d) the number of persons benefited from the daily Ring Railway Service in Delhi till date; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government for the development of Ring Railway Service in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) & (b). In order to decongest traffic from Shahdara in the East and Tughlakabad in South, Ring Railway was started in 1970 and completed before Asiad. These lines were originally planned as Goods avoiding lines and they were not planned to carry commuters. Presently ring railway operate 7 trains in the clockwise and 4 trains in the anti-clockwise direction during morning and evening peak hour traffic. The number of Goods trains on these lines is so high, that there is no scope for running additional passenger trains on this route.

(c) No amount was allocated during the last 3 years to Ring Railway Service in Delhi.

(d) The number of person travelled daily by the Ring Railway Service in Delhi as under:-

Year	No. of Passengers
1994-95	14,27,000
1995-96	14,98,000
1996-97(Oct'96)	8,47,000

(e) In the meeting of National Capital Region, Planning Board held on 24.9.96, it was decided that the feasibility study for laying of additional tracks along the Ring Rail in Delhi should be conducted by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in co-ordination with National Capital Region Planning Board. Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules 1986, proposal for such rail based Urban Transport Projects are now to be processed by the MUA & Employment and the State Government concerned.

[English]

Relay Centre at Durgapur

2922. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) the details of Doordarshan/AIR Kendras in West Bengal, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a TV centre at Durgapur, West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Statement indicating status of Doordarshan/AIR Kendras in West Bengal is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

STATEMENT

TV Transmitters		AIR Kendras
State	Existing	
West Bengal	PPC	Calcutta Shantiniketan (int.) Kurseong
	HPT	Siliguri Murshidabad
	LPT	Asansol Calcutta Calcutta (DD II) Calcutta (DD III) Kurseong Murshidabad
	VLPT	Alipurduar Balurghat Bardhaman Contai Darjeeling Jhargram Kalimpong Lalna Kharagpur Krishnanagar Maldah Medinipur Puruliya Ranaghat Shantiniketan

Gauge Conversion

2923. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kalol-Katosan-Ranuj railway line is proposed to be detached for conversion from Meter Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether alternative arrangement is made by the Railway authorities for regular passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no plan to convert this section to Broad Gauge.